

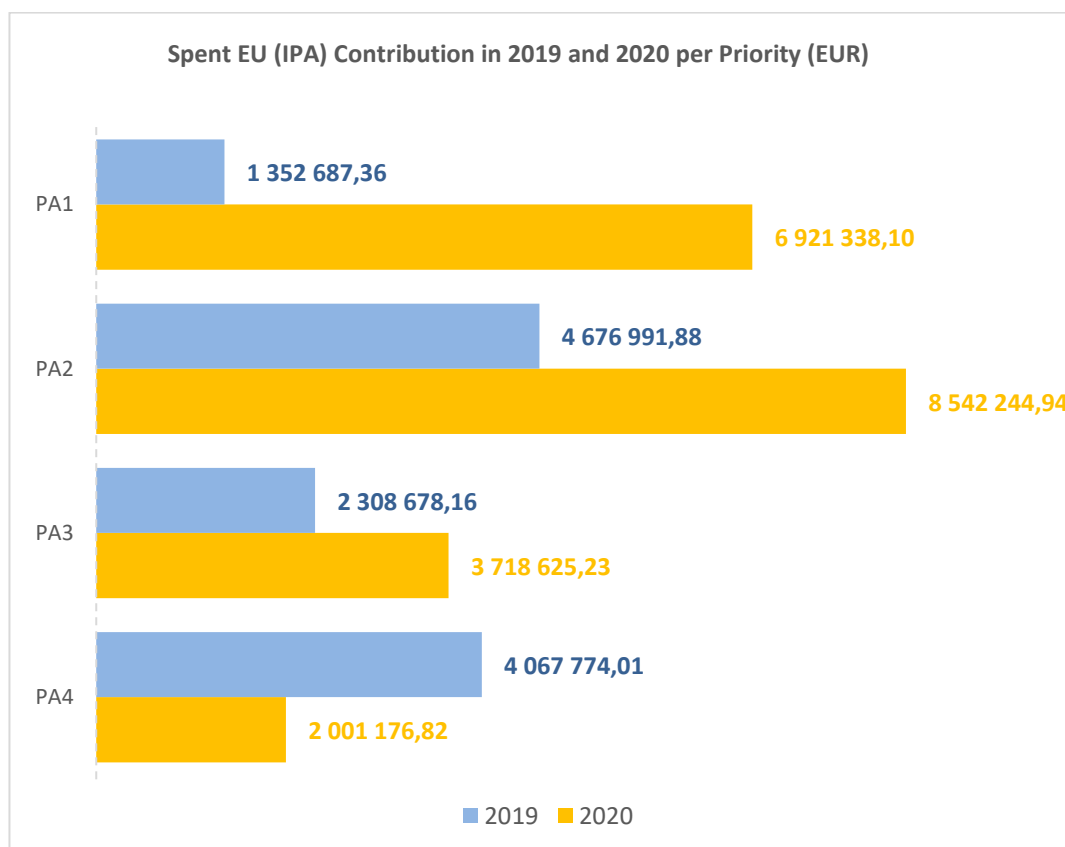
Citizens' Summary of the Annual Implementation Report 2020



The Annual Implementation Report (AIR) of the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Programme Hungary-Serbia for 2020 provides detailed insight into the programme’s operation between 1 January and 31 December 2020. The Citizens’ Summary is a brief overview of this report.

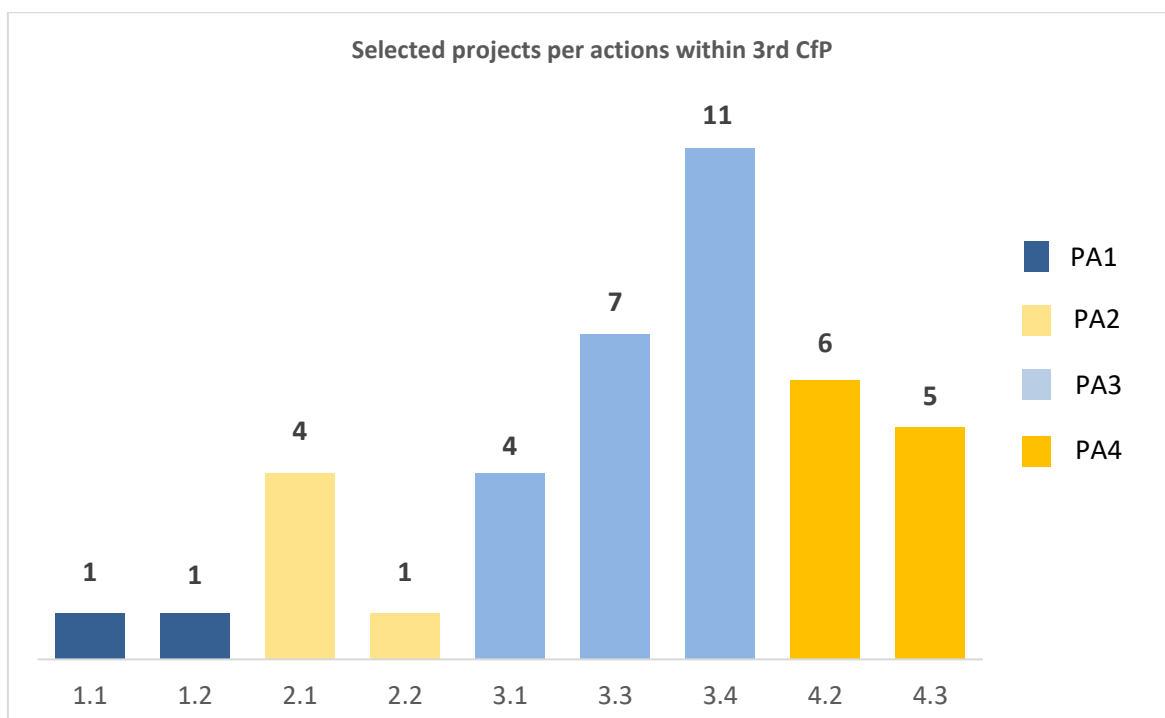
The programme bodies – the Managing Authority/MA (Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade), the Serbian National Authority/NA (Serbian Ministry of EU Integration), the Joint Secretariat of the programme/JS, the Joint Secretariat Antenna/JS Antenna, the First Level Control/FLC in Hungary and in Serbia, and the European Commission representative – the Desk Officer in charge of the programme, contributed to great progress of the programme implementation in 2020. Year 2020 was exceptional, since it was heavily affected by the COVID-19 pandemic that had a strong impact on project implementation, also, the biggest amount by our projects was reimbursed in 2020

The JS coordinated the approval of 14 addenda, has considered and approved 38 other project changes. The JS has also approved 134 project reports of the value of 24 921 328,19 EUR out of which IPA EU Contribution is 21 183 385,08 EUR, that is our strongest showing so far, despite the pandemic. Find below the breakdown of 2020 project reports per priority axis in comparison with 2019 data.



Another important process of 2020 was the selection and contracting of the projects from the 121 applications submitted for the 3rd Call for Proposal. The Joint Monitoring Committee selected 40 projects and formed a reserve list for the applications beyond the allocation. One applicant withdrew from contracting during the contracting procedure, therefore, the Secretariat was preparing 39 contracts. In 2020, there were 29 subsidy contracts signed by both parties (the Lead Beneficiary and the Managing Authority), while the MA issued the declaration of commitment for 35 projects.

The breakdown of selected projects in the 3rd CfP per actions is the following:



Besides the present, the programme started to work hard on the future. The programming process is well under way. The 2nd meeting of the Programming Committee was held online and 3 more are expected for 2021. The Committee approved the Territorial Analysis prepared by external experts, which is the basis of the documentation to be prepared for the 2021-2027 period.

As for event organisation, unfortunately, the pandemic situation required us to scale down many of our plans. Consequently, the Secretariat did not have the possibility to celebrate the European Cooperation Day. Additionally, the seminars for our new Lead Beneficiaries (of the 3rd Call for Proposal) needed to be shifted to 2021.

On the programme's operational side, sound and timely measures enabled that 2020 was also a successful year even under difficult circumstances. The most important tasks that enabled the programme's effectiveness were the following:

- Enabling the operations of the programme bodies and financing of their personnel and external services,
- Contracting and start of implementation of 3rd CfP projects,
- Project monitoring, administrative and technical assistance to projects of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd CfPs
- Information and communication activities,
- Audit and FLC measures,
- Further development and operation of an electronic monitoring system, and of the new electronic monitoring system.

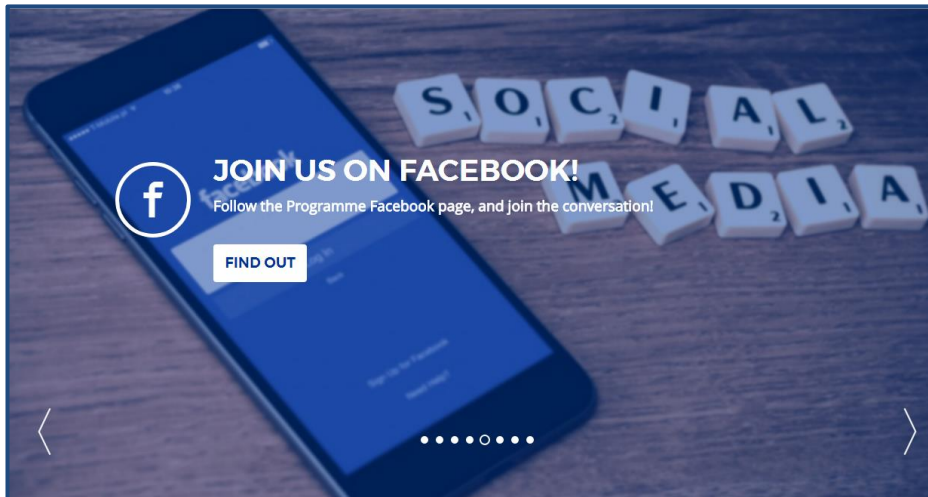
Out of 72 projects of the 1st and 2nd CfPs, 32 projects concluded their implementation before 2020, so 40 projects were active in 2020. With the addition of 25 more projects of the 3rd CfP that started their implementation in 2020, even during the pandemic, we can state that 2020 was the most active year so far, in terms of project implementation.

If we are formulating the achievements of 2020 in a more practical way, then we need to mention that almost additional 50 000 inhabitants benefited from flood protection measures, the length of improved water management systems was more than 172 km, more than 100 hectares were given a better conservation status. Additionally, 2 cross-border points were improved, 4,5 km road was newly built and more than 14 km was upgraded or reconstructed, while more than 15 km bicycle path was constructed.

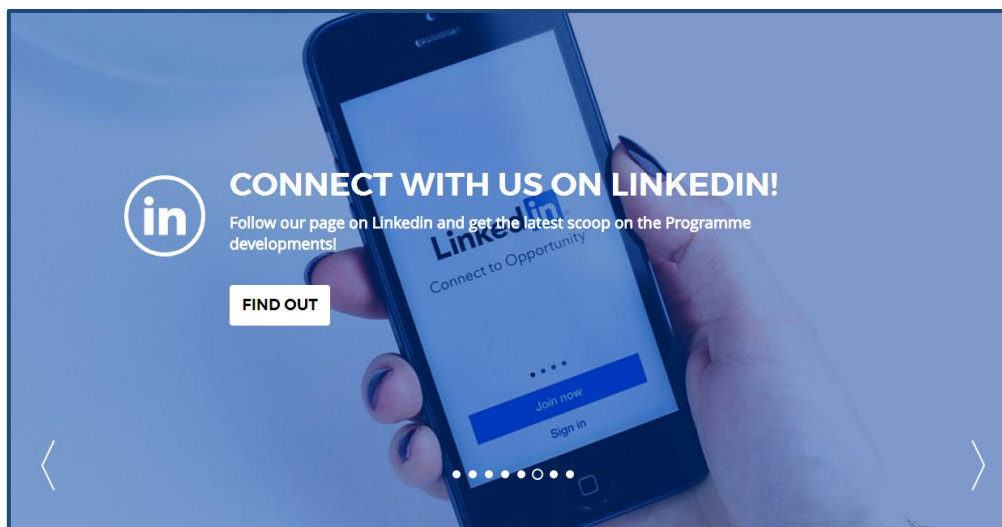
There were 44 000 visitors of cultural and natural heritage of the region, 124 events were organised. Almost 150 enterprises got linked to research institutions and another 150 organisations were actively working on knowledge platforms.



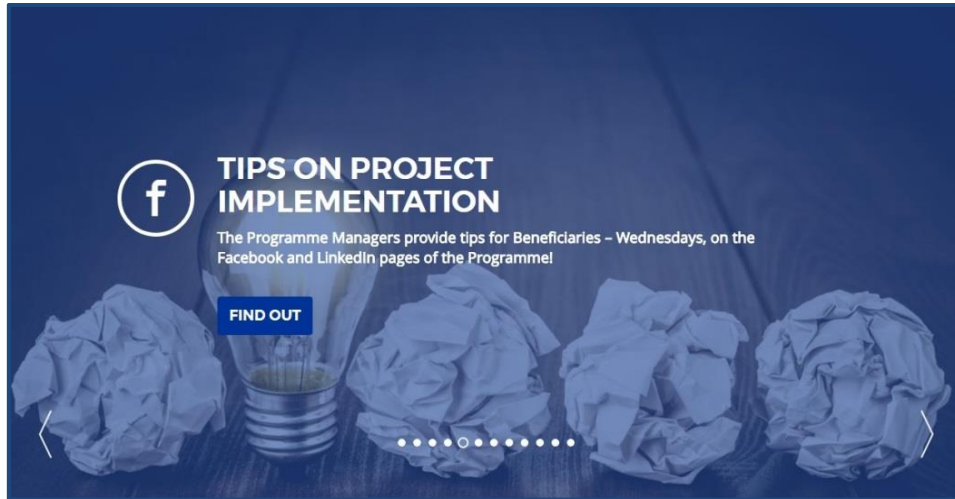
The programme's website www.interreg-ipa-husrb.com remained the main communication hub of the programme towards the general public, the interested potential applicants, the beneficiaries and other programme's stakeholders. It features information related to the calls for proposals, results of the calls, selected projects, the [summaries of the contracted projects](#) and the programme-related and EU-level news. Additionally, the website contains the photo and video content and [the infographics about the programme](#) and [the infographics about project implementation](#) that depict complex processes and information in a visual way that is easy to understand.



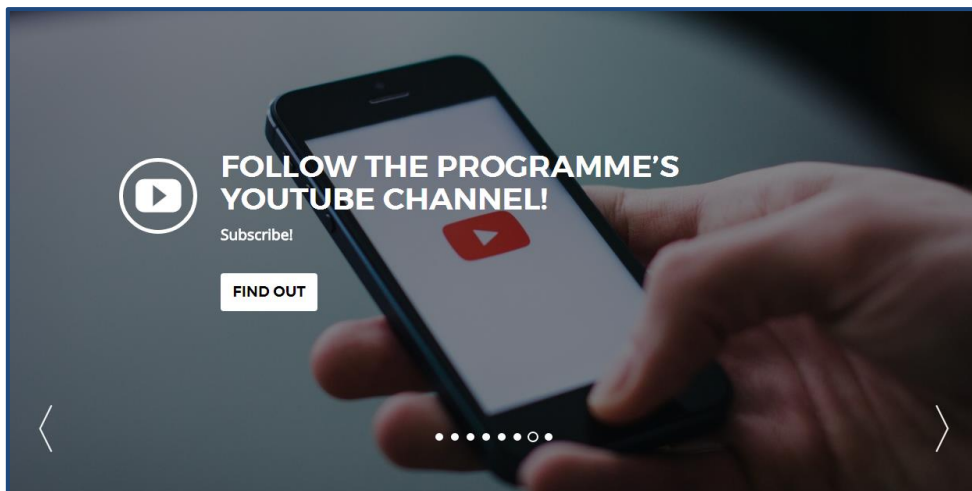
The [programme's Facebook page](#) and [programme's page on LinkedIn](#) featured all programme- and project-related news and announcements, tips for the applicants and beneficiaries, the regional and the European-level news relevant to the Programme.



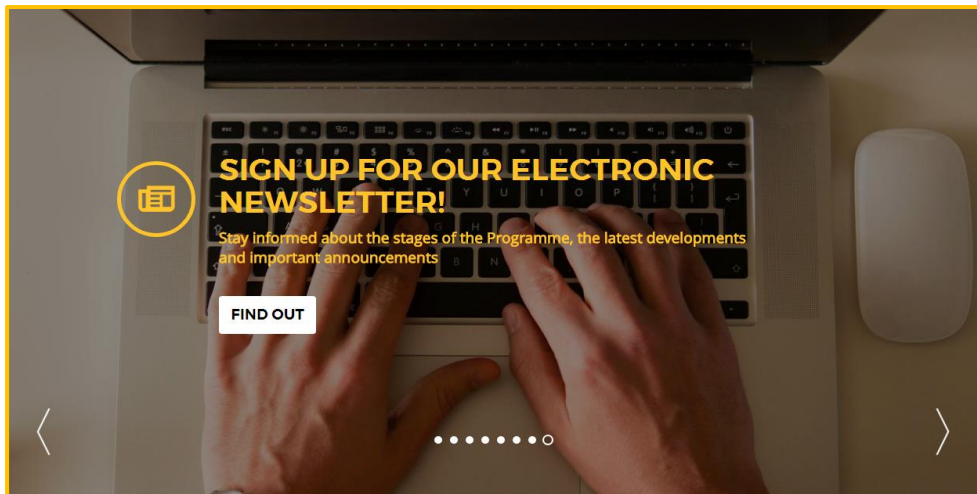
The programme's pages on Facebook and LinkedIn feature the series *Programme Managers' Tips*, launched in 2016. Besides, the social media surface was continuously updated throughout 2020 with various programme related information and advices.



The [programme's YouTube channel](#) continued to be a video content-sharing platform in 2020, as well. In addition to the programme-related content, it also featured the videos related to the project launching events and achieved results.



[Programme's newsletter](#) issues were distributed in 2020 as well, featuring the highlights about the Programme implementation, the latest developments and other important announcements.



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